

Message Text

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01079 171056Z

12/47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 SAM-01 SSM-03 SCCT-01 /076 W

----- 019834

R 131048Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8210

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1079

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT (ADD LINE SIX PARA 8)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PDEV, IS, JO, XF

SUBJ: BLITZER REPORT ON US VIEW OF WEST BANK LEADERSHIP

REF: TEL AVIV 5106 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: BLITZER JERUSALEM POST STORY CLAIMS US HAS CONCLUDED WEST BANKERS NOT WORKING TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP AS ALTERNATIVE TO PLO, WHICH THEY STILL STRONGLY SUPPORT. AMERICANS SAY, BLITZER CLAIMS, THAT PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP, ACCORDING TO WEST BANKERS, MUST COME FROM OUTSIDE WEST BANK. STORY ALSO DEALS WITH WEST BANK CRITICISM OF ASAD'S POLICY IN LEBANON, CONCERN OF WB CHRISTIANS, AND POSSIBLE "MODERATE" PLO MESSAGE TO ISRAEL THROUGH US. END SUMMARY.

2. AUG 13 JERUSALEM POST CARRIES WOLF BLITZER STORY FROM WASHINGTON UNDER 3-COLUMN HEAD: "US DOUBTS "MODERATE" WEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JERUSA 01079 171056Z

BANK LEADERSHIP IS EMERGING NOW." STORY CLAIMS THAT, ACCORD-
ING TO "REPORTS FROM THE WEST BANK REACHING TOP OFFICIALS
HERE", MOST NEWLY-ELECTED WEST BANK OFFICIALS, WHILE
"CONFUSED" BY SYRIA'S DECISION TO FIGHT PLO AND MOSLEM LEFTISTS

IN LEBANON, STILL VOICE STRONG SUPPORT FOR ARAFAT AND PLO AND SHOW "LITTLE INCLINATION TO WORK TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ALTERNATIVE PALESTINIAN "MODERATE" LEADERSHIP."

3. STORY CONTINUES: "OVERS THE PAST FEW WEEKS, THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS SOUGHT SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE THINKING OF THE WEST BANK LEADERSHIP. ANALYSTS HERE HAVE BEEN ANXIOUS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE MILITARY SETBACKS SUFFERED BY THE PLO IN LEBANON HAVE RESULTED IN A REASSESSMENT OF THE WEST BANKS' VIEWS TOWARD THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AND WHETHER THERE WERE CURRENTLY ANY NEW MOVES ON THE WEST BANK TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NON-PLO LEADERSHIP." AN "AMERICAN SOURCE" IS QUOTE AS SAYING "SO FAR THE ANSWER IS NO... ACCORDING TO WHAT OUR PEOPLE OUT THERE HAVE BEEN TOLD..."

4. "AMERICAN SOURCES" ARE CITED AS IDENTIFYING NABLUS MAYOR BASSAM SHAKA' AS REPRESENTATIVE OF A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE YOUNGER WEST BANK LEADERSHIP. THEY REPORT, BLITZER SAYS, THAT SHAKA' STILL SUPPORTS THE PLO AND, DESPITE HAVING BEEN A SYRIAN BA'ATH PARTY SYMPATHIZER, NOW COMPLAINS OF A SYRIAN-JORDANIAN CONSPIRACY TO WIPE OUT THE PLO. STORY REPORTS THAT WEST BANKERS, ACCORDING TO AMERICANS, STILL INSIST PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP MUST COME FROM OUTSIDE WEST BANK AND ARE STILL AFRAID OF BEING CONSIDERED "COLLABORATORS" WITH ISRAEL AND JORDAN IF THEY SUPPORT A NEW LEADERSHIP.

5. NOTING WEST BANKERS CRITICISM OF SYRIA FOR ALIGNING ITSELF WITH CHRISTIANS IN FIGHTING IN LEBANON, BLITZER ASSERTS THAT "AMERICAN SOURCES" SAY MANY WEST BANK CHRISTIANS HAVE NOT MISSED RELIGIOUS IMPLICATIONS AND ARE BY NO MEANS ANXIOUS TO PERMIT SIMILAR DEVELOPMENT IN WEST BANK.

6. STORY CONTINUES WITH SPECULATIVE DISCUSSION OF WEAKENING OF "MODERATE" (ARAFAT) PLO LEADERSHIP AND POSSIBILITY OF THEIR TRYING TO PASS LAST-DITCH MESSAGE TO ISRAEL THROUGH US RE WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF WEST BANK PALESTINIAN STATE. CONCLUDING PARAGRAPHS DEAL WITH REPORTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 JERUSA 01079 171056Z

DANGER TO ASAD'S POSITION DUE TO INTERNAL OPPOSITION TO HIS LEBANESE POLICY.

7. BLITZER ASSERTS BRITISH, FRENCH AND OTHERS "HAVE ALSO STEPPED UP THEIR REPORTING ACTIVITIES FROM WEST BANK".

8. COMMENT: WE HAVE HAD SOME FEEDBACK AMONG WEST BANK CONTACTS THAT INDICATES PUBLICITY ON ALLEGED UNUSUAL US INTEREST IN POSSIBLE EMERGENCE OF ALTERNATIVE PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP CREATES IMPRESSION IN AT LEAST SOME CASES THAT US ACTIVELY SUPPORTS SUCH DEVELOPMENT. SHOULD SUCH IMPRESSION BECOME WIDELY ACCEPTED, IT COULD CAUSE US SOME DIFFICULTIES

IN OBTAINING CANDID EXPRESSION OF VIEWS FROM WB LEADERS.
IN THIS REGARD, CURRENT BLITZER STORY CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT
OVER HIS EARLIER ASSERTION OF US INTEREST IN
POSSIBLE WB ALTERNATIVE TO PLO (TEL AVIV 5106).
NEWLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INDEPENDENCE, PFOR, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JERUSA01079
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760312-0042
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197608103/baaaesji.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BLITZER REPORT ON US VIEW OF WEST BANK LEADERSHIP
TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, PFOR, IS, JO, XF, US, JERUSALEM POST, (BLITZER, WOLF)
To: STATE INFO AMMAN
CAIRO
DAMASCUS
TEL AVIV
USUN NY
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006